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April 22, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York announced that Richard J. Scepkowski, age 48, of Schenectady, pled guilty today to a felony charge of making false statements to obtain federal workers' compensation payments.

According to the information admitted during this morning's plea proceedings before Senior United States District Judge Thomas J. McAvoy, from in or about September 2004, and continuing through in or about August 2009, defendant Scepkowski received federal workers' compensation benefits, following an injury that he reported receiving while employed as a Safety Technician for the Transportation Security Administration at the Albany International Airport on or about July 4, 2004. In order to receive such benefits, the defendant was required to complete and file certifications with the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) of the United States Department of Labor in which he indicated, among other things, that he was not employed and had no involvement or ownership interest in any business enterprise. However, testimonial and/or documentary evidence obtained by the government confirmed that, from in or about the Spring of 2008 through on or about August 1, 2009, defendant Scepkowski was, in truth and fact, employed and involved in an auto repair business in Schenectady, previously known as DiCarlo's Service Station. Moreover, on or about May 28, 2009, the defendant acquired the business, which he subsequently renamed as "QuickServe." The defendant executed and submitted the false certifications referenced above

notwithstanding the fact that, immediately above the signature lines, they confirmed that he knew “that anyone who fraudulently conceals or fails to report income or other information which would have an effect on benefits, or who makes a false statement or misrepresentation of a material fact in claiming a payment or benefit under the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act may be subject to criminal prosecution, from which a fine or imprisonment, or both, may result.” The defendant further admitted that the amount of benefits falsely obtained by him exceeded \$1,000 on a monthly basis, and aggregated approximately \$21,897.98 for the period from April 13, 2008 through August 1, 2009.

Defendant Scepkowski faces a maximum sentence of up to five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, a three year term of supervised release to follow any term of incarceration, and mandatory restitution of the funds that he admitted fraudulently obtaining through his criminal conduct. Sentencing in the case was set for **Monday, September 13, 2010, at 11:30 am**, before Senior Judge McAvoy in Albany.

The investigation in this matter was conducted jointly by the regional office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, and the local Office of Law Enforcement and the Office of Inspection of the Transportation Security Administration. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of New York.

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